

Neshoba County Fair

Speech Outline

7/29/04

■ Intro

"Fixin to" is a great Southern expression...since I've been Governor I've been all about fixin...there was a lot to fix when I got here, so we've rolled up our sleeves and gotten to it...

- Relationship between Governor and Legislature had to be fixed...nothing can happen if there is too much bickering...we've done that and worked together on big, tough issues. 12 out of 16 SOS proposals passed.

■ Most in need of fixin: job creation.

- lost # jobs last four years
- first act as Governor-elect was job creation summit
- tort reform
- workforce development reform
- no tax hikes
- meeting CEOs

■ Second most important: fixing Mississippi's budget

- \$700 million budget shortfall
- Operation: Streamline - largest savings plan in state history
- Cut in half in two years...got almost half this year \$411 million left
- Medicaid savings, corrections savings
- Prioritized education, teacher pay raise...especially higher ed
- No tax hikes

■ Other important things done...

- Pro-Life bills passed...one we are still fighting for
- BON under DPS...new focus on fighting drugs... arrests up ___%

■ We've only just begun on these two items

- New package of job creation incentives
- "Operation: Streamline II" to eliminate the rest of the shortfall

■ Education needs less talking and more fixing

- Announce summit for the fall

■ Tax Warning

- They will try to raise your taxes to pay for their mistakes... we must fight to keep them out of your wallet

■ This is what I want MS to look like when I'm finished

- The best environment for job creation in America
- A Mississippi budget that is treated like a family budget - no spending sprees, no bread and water diets, no trickery
- Schools that not only make their budget, but make their grades, too
- yada, yada, yada

■ Bush

- Just like Reagan
- Good for Mississippi
- Kerry Bad for Mississippi

Workforce Training Suggestion

You've all heard the expression from the movie: "If you build it...they will come." Well, when it comes to recruiting industry to Mississippi - "If you can't build it...they won't come." That is why improving our workforce training system is the first step in job creation. Better training means a better workforce; and a better workforce means better jobs. Now when industries ask Mississippi if we can build it we'll just say... "Can we build it? Is it hot in Neshoba in July?"

<Suggested ending>

Changing Mississippi is bigger than a one man job.

I need your help.

Will You Help Me...

...Re-Elect Bush? *<applause>*.

...Create more jobs? *<applause>*.

...Defeat any tax hikes? *<applause>*.

...Erase the budget red ink? *<applause>*.

...Fight drugs? *<applause>*.

...Help our Medicaid recipients? *<applause>*.

...Focus on Education Results? *<applause>*.

...Raise Expectations for Mississippi?
<*applause*>.

With your help we will. God Bless you, God Bless Mississippi and God Bless the United States of America.